

ZERO, BEAT

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC

SPRINGFIELD, MASS

MAY 1984

ARRL AFFILIATED, 36th YEAR

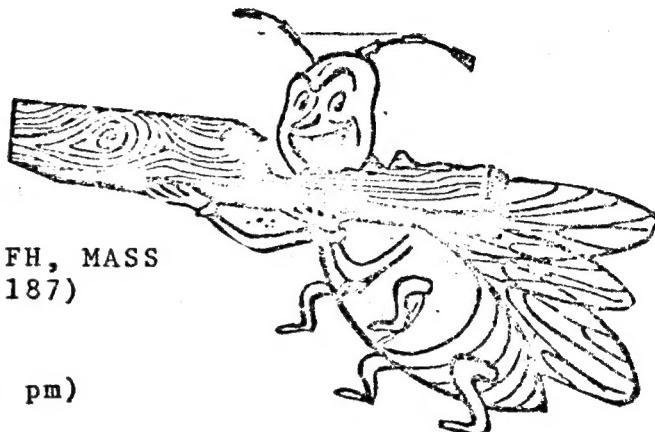
NEXT MEETING:

AMATEUR RADIO

FLEA MARKET!!!! FRIDAY MAY 4th

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, FH, MASS
(Intersection of Routes 57 and 187)

7:30 pm Only \$3.00 per Table!
(Sellers can set-up at 6:30 pm)



We need your help to make this a success! Please plan on renting a table.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May is traditionally the time when the Hampden County Radio Association appoints a nominating committee to set up a slate of Officers and Directors for the upcoming year. A number of the present club officials have served for a few years and would like the opportunity to enjoy the HCRA instead of running it. This is the ideal opportunity for new blood to come forward and give us a hand in assuring the continued high quality. The HCRA does not run itself, a hardworking Board of Directors made up of people like you are needed to make a great club.

Steve Nelson, WALEYF

P.S. The coffee bar will need someone to handle it next season. Many thanks to all who've taken a meeting this past year. If no one volunteers to take this, then there will not be a coffee bar!

EDITOR'S CORNER

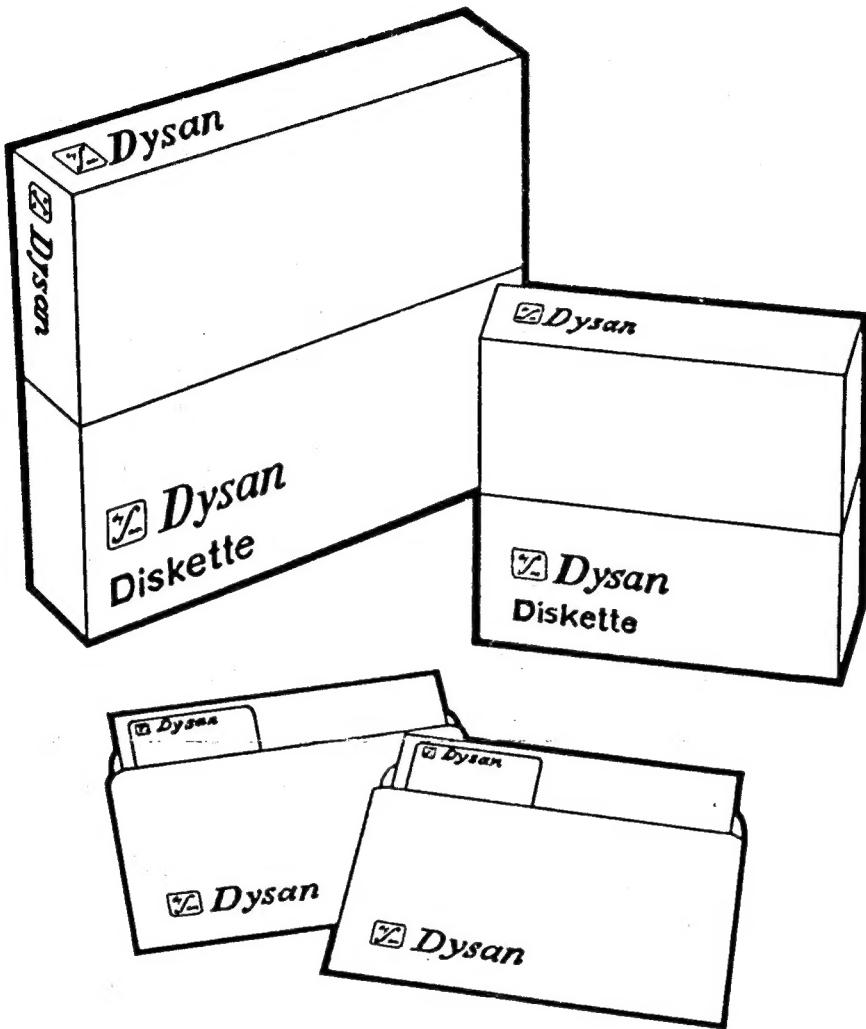
The annual club banquet is a salute to all the past and present QSL Bureau sorters. Please talk it up so that we can have a good crowd on hand to say "We've appreciated your hard work!" .

Field Day is fast approaching and I hope you're planning to attend. Hope you have enjoyed ZERO BEAT. This issue is mixed, with a good article about DX by W1DGJ. Note also that the bus tickets are selling fast. Please support the club Flea Market, by talking it up, and renting a table to sell off some of your treasures!

DUES ARE \$8.50 PER SEASON. (Sept-June) MAIL TO: Greg Stoddard, N1AEH,

1500 Mapleton Ave, Suffield, CT 06078

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PSE QSL, OM!
by W1DGJ

Last November, in preparation for writing a Chronology of W1DGJ, a short autobiography of my amateur career, I noted that in an old log book from 1959 I had made a contact with FQ8AF in French Equatorial Africa. The QSO was made on ten meters AM and a note in the log confirmed that a QSL card had been sent directly to Gustave Crauet, at Aeronautique Civile, Brazzidville, Moyen-Congo, French Equatorial Africa. I had never received a response to my request for a QSL card.

For three years now I have been at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll on both the mixed and phone modes. I have a total of 345 countries confirmed, including the deleted countries. I thought what a delight it would be to get a "new" country confirmed! French Equatorial Africa has been deleted from the DXCC listing and only contacts made before August 16, 1960 would count for the FQ8 prefix. French Equatorial Africa had been divided into four new countries: Congo (TN), Gabon (TR), Chad (TT), and the Central African Republic (TL). I looked through the current callbook and found no Gustave Crauet listed in any of the new countries.

I dropped a short note to the editor of QRZ DX in Richardson, Texas and inquired if they could help me locate the present whereabouts of ex-FQ8AF. My request was published in QRZ DX at the beginning of December and I immediately received a letter from Frank Wolk, N5FW. (ex-W5HPV), who also worked FQ8AF in 1953 and was still seeking a QSL card from him. Frank informed me that he also contacted Gus in 1971 operating TU2AF but lost the trail there.

I received a letter from Don, K8MFO in Wooster, Ohio, who likewise has been trying to get a QSL from FQ8AF since 1960 with no luck. Don gave me an address in Beauvais, France that was the last address he had for Gus and it eventually turned out to be his current address. Don had received a QSL from Gus for a 1972 operation from TT8AC but has had no success receiving a FQ8AF QSL after many tries which included DX stamps, IRCs, dollar bills, and homemade QSLs that required only his signature.

I also received an encouraging letter from Rick Dorsch, NE8Z (ex HC1MD/HC5EE). Rick suggested trying to contact ex FQ8HD, who is Ray Robinson, FY7YN, in Cayenne, French Guiana. At this point I decided to try writing to other people who may have known Gustave Crauet in Brazzidville and could help me trace Gus's travels. I sent letters to FY7YN, TU2AE, and to TN8AQ in Brazzaville, People's Republic of Congo. I also tried to get any information available from contacts over the air. From F6EWK I learned that Gus has a brother Jean Louis who is F9EP and lives in L'Etang-la-ville. F6INJ, Pierre in Chatou, contacted Gus's brother for me and had him confirm that the address I had in Beauvais was correct. He also gave me a bit of news that was a disappointment

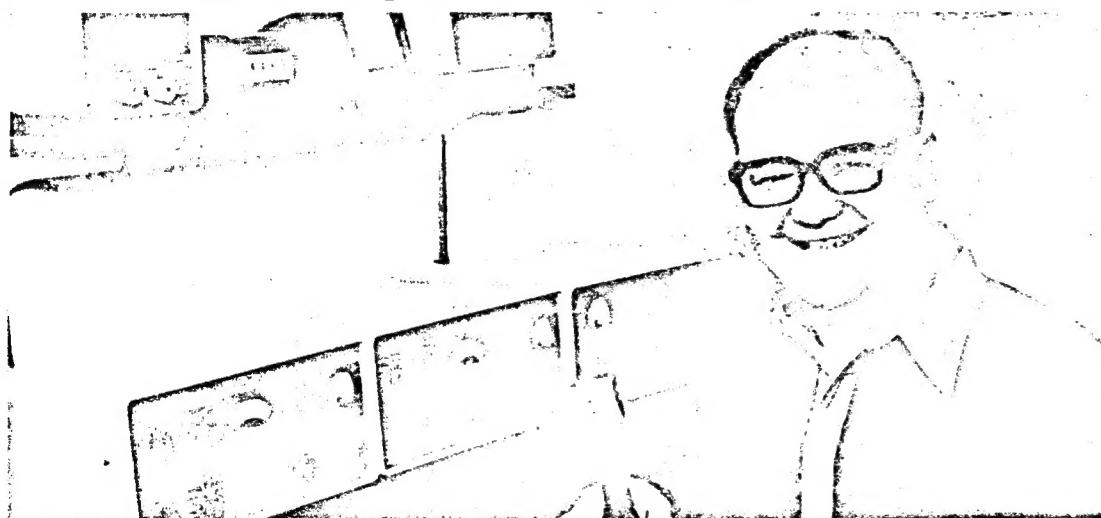
to me. He told me that Gus was no longer an active amateur radio operator.

I wrote a letter to Gus and explained my wishes. I also wrote to his brother and asked for his assistance if Gus did not understand my English letter. I also thought he might not understand my big interest in such an old confirmation. While waiting for a reply I also wrote to F6EWM, DL3NBH, F6GQI, F6AIR, F9JQ, F9GL, F2BS, and F9MD to ask their assistance in obtaining this "rare" QSL. To whet my appetite K1DRN sent me a xerox copy of a FQ8AF QSL card received many years ago. I waited for a reply from Gus.

But today, 24 years, 3 months, and 5 days later I received a FQ8AF QSL card from Gus confirming our contact in December 1959. It may not set a record in the Guinness Book of Records, but I must admit that of the 346 countries that I now have confirmed, it was the most difficult to obtain. My many thanks to everyone who helped me get another "new" country confirmed for my DXCC.

Mike Ludkiewicz W1DGJ

Epilog: On March 26, 1984 my FQ8AF QSL card was accepted by the ARRL as country number 346 for DXCC!



W1DGJ

Mike Ludkiewicz

143 RICHMOND ROAD
LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS 01056

FOR SALE: WILSON Systems ONE 5 element Tribander
Very Good Condition Russ KA1GIP 467-3425

FOR SALE:
TA33 Mosley Tribander
Ham M Rotor, &
Control Section of
tower. (approx 8 ft)
\$130.00

TI-55 Advanced
Professional Calcula-
lator w/ carrying
case, A/c adapter,
and charger, manual
\$15.00

Books- TTL Data Book,
Transistor Circuits,
Digital Logic Funda-
mentals, Principles
of Electronic Circuit
\$10. for all!

Heathkit Cantenna
\$10.00 Contact Rich
WA1YYW 525-7652



NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS ARE BEING SOLICITED.

In the interest of general knowledge for our club membership, especially the newer ones, we are going to run a few notes on the club offices and what the job entails. This should not be thought of as an exposé, and the scandal sheets don't have to bother copying this!

The club year runs from September to June. Many moons ago the season was the more normal January to December, but it seemed that at Christmas time, no one was much interested in the annual club meeting or in being elected to the Board of Directors. Something to do with a holiday season, and their families. So it was changed to end at the annual club meeting, which was made into a banquet so that someone would show up. Food attracts even the less stout-hearted members! It is at this annual meeting that all official club business is conducted and the new slate of officers is elected. Keeping in mind that being nominated is tantamount to election in this organization, here's the offices and what the duties are:

PRESIDENT

Presides at the meetings of the club and Board of Directors. Has one vote on the board, and is elected for a one year term, or a nervous breakdown, whichever comes first.

VICE PRESIDENT

Serves as president in his absence. VP is also the program chairman, charged with the scheduling and presentation of programs at the meetings. Under our organization, at the first board meeting of the season, usually during August, the entire year is laid out. Most often, the load is shared, with other board members each taking a certain month and getting the meeting presentation ready. The VP has one vote and is elected for one year in office, or impeachment, whichever comes first.

TREASURER

The treasurer receives all monies and other properties due the club, and disburses these at the direction of the Board. He holds one vote on the Board and is elected for one year in office, or a signed postcard from Bermuda, whichever comes first.

SECRETARY

The secretary keeps minutes of the Board meetings, and maintains with the treasurer a list of all current club members. He does any mailings as directed by the Board, and any other correspondence that may be required by club business. He also keeps all past Board minutes, in case anyone ever requests to see them. (No one ever has!) The secretary is elected for a one year term, or until the wife throws him out with all the club records. He has one vote on the Board.

DIRECTORS

Four directors are elected every year for two year terms. That is to ensure that there is always some experienced people on the Board. The Directors are responsible for all business and activities of the club. No club business is conducted at regular meetings, and this has been proven to be very successful. Monthly meetings of the Directors are

held, usually at various "volunteers" homes. A quorum of 5 members is required to conduct club business. Each Director has one vote on the Board. The entire Board is composed of the four club officers and eight Directors.

QUALIFICATIONS

Besides having a pulse, stringent criteria must be met by each candidate. You have to let someone nominate you, and not be a silent key at that time. Actually all full members of the HCRA are eligible. (To be a full member you must be a licensed radio amateur.) If you're willing to work for the club, with little or no thanks, and enjoy the challenge of working with a team of great people, the job's for YOU!

HOW TO NOMINATE SOMEONE:

Talk to any member of the present Board. (Phone numbers are on the last page of this issue.) A "clique" does not run this club, and almost anyone is welcome on the Board. The biggest problem we have is that many people recite a litany of past service to the club, and don't realize that there's also work to be done today! We need your help to keep things rolling!!!

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

While most of the members are new to ham radio, we have many who go back to the early days of radio. As you all know, the HCRA was formed out of three radio clubs in the Greater Springfield area. World War II put the kibosh on radio activities, and in 1946, the clubs merged to form your present day club. Here's some of the past history of the club. This was originally sent into ZERO BEAT by Howard Cutting, W1JWV, and published in the early 1950's.

1919- Club formed by the late "Ike" Creaser, then W1BSJ, and met in the State Street Bابتist Church.

1920- Affiliated with the ARRL.

1921- Relayed the Carpentier-Dempsey fight to an estimated audience of 10,000 people. Had booths in the various radio shows of those days and handled traffic universally.

1928- Sponsored the ARRL convention at the Hotel Kimball, Springfield.

1930- Maintained communication stations on pylons at air races at Bowles Airport, and at other fields.

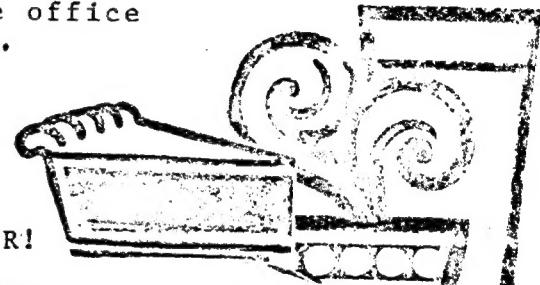
1931- Was official communication station at the 1st Corps Area Air maneuvers at Bowles Airport, received commendation from Major General George S. Gibbs, Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army.

1932- Experimented with the first 5 meter radiophone communications.

Howard Cutting, W1JWV, is still an active club member, as are many others who participated in these events!

TIDBITS

WA1RWU is the first ham to work the USSR via moonbounce on 432!!!! AND he's the first ham to work Brazil via moon bounce on 432!!! BOTH on the same night!!!! That's great, Frank...N1AEH is a regular checkin to 1RN for the Connecticut section...K1BUB is going to the Olympics to operate the special event station. Keep us informed of your schedule, Bob...K1BE's design for the Special Service Club logo won... N1AJZ, Pat Foley is running for the office of Hampden County Commissioner- Vote for him!!! Not even one nomination was received for Ham-Of-the-Year, so no award this year...



TICKETS NOW ON SALE FROM ANY BOARD MEMBER!

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC

ANNUAL BANQUET

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, FH, MA
FRIDAY, JUNE FIRST

"SALUTE TO ALL PAST/PRESENT QSL BUREAU SORTERS"

7:30 ROAST BEEF DINNER WITH ALL THE FIXINGS

6:30-7:30 PM hors d'oeuvres

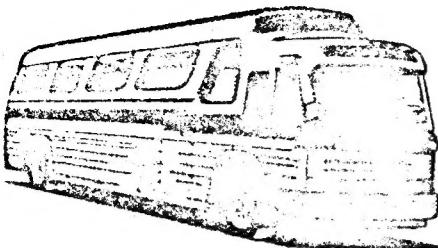
Menu:
Roast Beef
Baked Potato
Green Beans
Salad
Bread
Coffee/Tea
Dessert

& Seconds, of course!

DOOR PRIZES

\$8.00 person

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO ALL THE BUREAU SORTERS!!!!



CHARTER BUS TRIP TO THE ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Saturday, July 21, 1984

We'll leave from Springfield at 7 am, meeting at the Agawam High School on route 57. Arrival in New York City will be at 10 am, departure about 10pm. You have to purchase your own admission and banquet tickets. The address to write to is listed below or look in QST for more information.

The Board of Directors has made the following changes because members did not want to order their banquet/convention tickets and then find out the bus was cancelled due to lack of interest. So--At the May 4th club Flea Market, tickets will be sold to ANYONE, for \$14.00 each!!!! Club members will be able to purchase their ticket for \$12.00 each and \$13.00 for their spouse's ticket. The Board of Directors feels that the members had first chance at the tickets and now it is First come-First served! Only 49 tickets will be sold.

To order via mail, send a check made out to the HCRA to:
Jeffrey J. Duquette, K1BE, P.O. Box 346, Southwick, Mass 01077
An SASE is appreciated.

To order tickets to the convention, write to : Mike Troy,
AJ1J, R.R. 4- Box 19C, Pound Ridge, NY 10576.

SEND A QSL CARD TODAY!

Percy Noble, W1BVR, one of the few life members of the HCRA, is ill and now is at the following address:

Percy Noble, W1BVR
c/o Maplevue Nursing Home

Hamnet: A Computerized Information Service

by Ed Raso, WA2FTC

One of the most interesting and versatile aspects of computer related Amateur Radio is an electronic bulletin board and information service known as Hamnet. What originally began as one of the first SIGs (Special Interest Groups) on the CompuServe Information Network over three years ago, has since grown to a membership of over 2100, with new users being added each month. CompuServe, if you are not familiar with the system, is a nationwide computer network that can be accessed by its members over phone lines. For a monthly fee, determined by time spent on the system, users can sign on and access the various services available.

Under the management of Scott Loftesness, W3VS, the SYSOP (Systems Operator), Hamnet has become a source of information of national amateur activities. Since taking over the SIG's operations more than a year ago, Scott has averaged over one hour a day running the system. His duties include uploading (entering) data to Hamnet, and generally keeping things in order. During a recent phone interview with **RCN**, Scott described the objective of Hamnet as "a meeting place to share ideas about Amateur Radio on a national level." Although Scott uploads most of the data himself, he does have some assistance from Dave Ginsberg, N3BKV, and Eric Cottrell, WB1HBU.

Talking about uses of the SIG for local radio clubs, Scott states that although he has no particular plans for

these groups at present, as a member of the Montgomery ARC, an ARRL affiliated club, he does see a great potential for communication between clubs nationwide. Scott adds, "I think what it (Hamnet) does best is to communicate items of interest and affords the possibility of two-way communications." Typically, users of the SIG can read other member's messages and comment on them, thus promoting an active net with input from a variety of sources. Because of the national use of Hamnet, Scott is constantly looking for items of interest to be used and would welcome club newsletters for ideas. All information presently on the system is considered to be "public domain" and clubs for instance, may use the data as a source of information for their newsletters. A strong interest in packet radio has prompted Scott to include a recent series of tutorials on the subject, and often includes news from the Tucson and AMRAD packet radio groups. He would also like to present a Novice license tutorial sometime in the future. "One of the more useful things the SIG can accomplish is to get more people interested in Amateur Radio," says Scott, and adds that quite often, non-hams sign onto the net asking how they can get in touch with an amateur in their area.

At present, users of Hamnet can access any one of the several different databases for viewing. A database is actually an electronic file of information. Bulletins from W1AW, for example, can be found in the X1 and XA1 databases. The ARRL is also looking into the possibility of uploading other types of information to the SIG on a regular basis. Although plans have not yet been formalized, perhaps in the near future users will be able to retrieve news and information from Headquarters. Other databases include OSCAR satellite reports and updates, teleconference news, and a variety of amateur related bulletins.

If you do decide to become a user of the SIG, a set of guidelines is available from Scott for ans.a.s.e. (please use a business size envelope with two first-class stamps). Because of the complexity of Hamnet, the inexperienced user may want to acquaint himself with the system before signing on. This will help make time spent on the system more productive and enjoyable. To access Hamnet after signing on the CompuServe system, simply type in GO HOM-11 at the prompt. Further information can be obtained by writing to Scott at his Callbook address, or better yet, leave a message for him on Hamnet.

ZERO BEAT Articles are uploaded into the XA0 database, and are re-printed throughout the US by various clubs! W1KK's articles on OSCAR antennas and W1NPL's article on crystal control have had the most people reading them. If you send an article into ZERO BEAT, you might end up with all this free national exposure too! You've also been reading many articles in ZB taken off of COMPUSERVE's HAMNET.

HAMFESTS AND FLEA MARKETS

May 4th HCRA, Feeding Hills Congregational Church, FH Mass 7-10 PM
May 12/13 HOSS TRADERS FLEA MARKET, Deerfield, NH (Best in New England!)
May 19th ROCHESTER HAMFEST, Rochester, NY

LATE BREAKING NEWS:

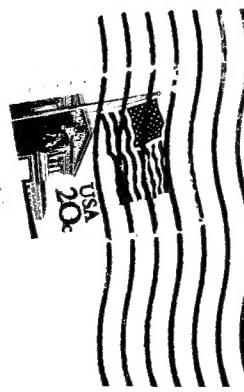
We've received the flyer about the ARRL National Convention too late to re-print it in this issue. However, it is \$4.00 per admission ticket before July 1st, \$5.00 at the door. The banquet tickets are \$26.00 per person. If I have time, I'll photostat the flyer and bring copies to the Flea Market!

LAST CLASS

ZERO BEAT
MAY 1984

111 10004

Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE
P.O. Box 346
Southwick, MA 01077



HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR THE CLUB OFFICERS???

Officers

Steve Nelson, WA1EYF - President	596-8216
John Balboni, AC1T - Vice President	786-2438
Greg Stoddard, N1AEH - Treasurer	(203) 668-5143
Norm Cournoyer, N1AFY Secretary	532-1944

Directors

Term of Office 1982-1984:

Bob GRAVEL K1BUB	
Jeff Duquette, K1BE	569-6739
Malcolm Gesner, WB1CLO	536-6027
Ron Beauchemin, WB1ETS	739-5228

Term of Office 1983-1985:

Yorke Phillips, K1BXE	566-3010
Ray Burk, WB1GLX	596-6403
Bob (archie) Archambault, KAJDY	536-4578
Bob McCormick, KA1KPH	786-7966

PRESIDENT

Steve Nelson
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Wilbraham, Ma 01095
596-8216

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